

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF GREATER PROVIDENCE
5 Junction Street
Parsonage
Providence, RI. 02907

Feb. 1, 1976



Dear Ed,

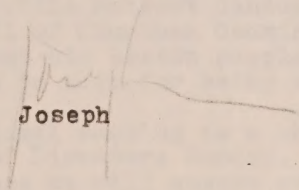
We have not had very expert help with our Treasurer's Books until Connie took over and by then it was impossible to reconstruct lots that had happened in the past. In any event, in constructing our 1976 report we discovered the enclosed check which had bounced...it was registration for 3 people for District Conference here. I have some sort of recollection that the maker is one of your people. We have no record that 21 good dollars were swapped for the check.

So! Dear heart...IF Bill Pike is one of yours, IF the sum is collectible, IF somehow it had not already been taken care of, IF, IF, IF.....

On the other hand, if you don't know the person or find that its uncollectible or already taken care of we will adjust the books accordingly.

You and Margaret are invited to Worcester Saturday, March 5th to spend some time with Michael, Jay, Evan, Howard, (hopefully) Joey and with me. Hope to see you in mid-morning that day.

Love,


Joseph



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November 1, 1978

Rev. Edward Hougen
MCC Boston
131 Cambridge Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Ed. We find my ministers' reports for August, September
Sorry they are late, but as you can imagine things
necetic around here.

Also, I found the enclosed letter when I was clearing up left-
overs from the conference, it was in a packet, and I have no idea
who left it here.

I am sending our tithes directly to Gloria, and we are up to date.
The conference left us with a profit only from the offering which
was taken Friday night. We took in about \$896 in registrations
and paid out about \$897 in food, Papa John's airfare, supplies, etc.

We are recovering from the conference! Last two weeks have been
very small attendance, but we have made budget. Besides, I was
away in Baltimore at the Marriottsville Retreat Center, representing
the Fellowship at the Nat'l Council of Churches Commission on
Women in Ministry. Understand about six Boston people were here
last Sunday, but have to apologize to them for being away.

We are having our first congregational meeting as a chartered church
and choosing our permanent Board of Directors Sunday. Pray for us!
I hate Bds. of Directors -- but hope we will choose some good ones.
We especially need a good treasurer.

We are seriously thinking about Portland, and have begun outreach
to the gay groups there, to see how they feel about an MCC. I should
be in touch with you about this before Christmas. I have not con-
tacted Christa as yet, but will soon.

Love,

Marge

Margo

Love,

We are seriously thinking about Portland, and have begun outreach to the gay groups there, to see how they feel about an MCC. I should be in touch with you about this before Christmas. I have not contacted Christa as yet, but will soon.

We especially need a good treasurer. I hate Bd. of Directors -- but hope we will choose some good ones. and choosing our permanent Board of Directors Sunday. Try to get! We are having our first congregational meeting as a chartered church last Sunday, but have to apologize to them for being away.

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Boston, MA
121 Cambridge St
MCC Boston
Rev. Howard Houghton

November 1, 1978

Metropolitan Community Church
P. O. Box 1462, Annex Station
Providence, R.I. 02901

November 23, 1977

Rev. Edward Hougen
Metropolitan Community Church
131 Cambridge Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Ed.

Enclosed is the copy of the telephone bill which is in question. Please realize that this carries a "Past Due" amount of \$92.81, which I have no records for. I am also enclosing the financial records for 1976. You will note that the total church telephone costs for that year were only \$233.65 -- an amount equalled in two months alone of this year.

You will also note that the telephone calls to Jamaica Plain, either to me or by me total \$5.31. Lest there be any misunderstanding, I am enclosing my check for that amount (presumably to be made out to Stephen. If he is able to ascertain which of these calls are MCC business calls, we will attempt to pay for them. However, I do protest that Steven, knowing the financial status of the church he was called to pastor, should have thought twice before making so many long distance phone calls.

As I told you, since we have begun to pay off old phone bills, either in the church's name or Joseph Gilbert's name -- because the phone company was aware of the connection through this address -- we have paid a total of nearly \$200.00. The telephone company has advised us that we may have a telephone in MCC-Providence's name, but only upon payment of \$300.00 deposit. For a small church with minimal resources it is unbelievable that that kind of deposit should be required. However, it is in direct relation to the amount of previous debts left owing them that they have demanded this size deposit. We cannot afford that kind of money and I think that previous pastors have done this church a great disservice in leaving its financial affairs in such a mess.

I have located many of the old financial records, and would appreciate your looking them over, and advising me as to what we can do to straighten out this mess. Can a church declare bankruptcy? That looks like the only way we will clear the slate, so we can begin anew.

I have also located two previous reimbursements for telephone usage, one in April and one in June, made out to Steven. I am enclosing Xeroxes of those. Apparently Steve was reimbursed, but to no such amount as \$200.00.

I look forward to seeing you Thursday following Thanksgiving. As I will be going to Syracuse to speak

Metropolitan Community Church
P.O. Box 1000, Boston, MA 02111
November 23, 1977

Rev. Edward Horgan
Metropolitan Community Church
131 Cambridge Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Ed:

Enclosed is two copy of the telephone bill which is in question. Please realize that this carries a "past due" amount of \$22.81, which I have no records for. I am also enclosing the financial records for 1976. You will note that the total church telephone costs for that year were only \$23.65 -- an amount equalled in two months alone of this year.

You will also note that the telephone calls to James Plain, either to me or by me total \$2.31. Last there be any minister attending. I am enclosing my check for that amount (presumably to be made out to Stephen). If he is able to ascertain which of these calls are MCC business calls, we will attempt to pay for them. However, I do protest that Steven, knowing the financial status of the church he was called to pastor, should have thought twice before making so many long distance phone calls.

As I told you, since we have begun to pay off old phone bills, either in the church's name or Joseph Gifford's name -- because the phone company was aware of the connection through this address -- we have paid a total of nearly \$200.00. The telephone company has advised us that we may have a telephone in MCC-Providence's name, but only upon payment of \$100.00 deposit. For a small church with minimal resources it is unbelievable that that kind of deposit should be required. However, it is in direct relation to the amount of previous debts left owing them that they have demanded this also. We cannot afford that kind of money and I think that previous pastors have done this church a great disservice in leaving its financial affairs in such a mess.

I have located many of the old financial records, and would appreciate your looking them over, and advising me as to what we can do to straighten out this mess. Can a church declare bankruptcy? That looks like the only way we will clean the slate, so we can begin anew.

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June 19, 1978

Rev. Edward Hougen
District Coordinator, N.E. District
Metropolitan Community Church of Boston
131 Cambridge Street
Boston, Mass. 02114

Dear Ed:

I have had two formal requests for people to do exhorterships under my supervision: Rev. Jody Stiles, whom you met, has requested that I approach you and your Board about the possibility of her becoming an Exhorter from the Boston church, but assigned to work her in Providence.

Jody is an M.Div. graduate of Boston University School of Theology, had two internships (one in the Boston area, the other in rural Rhode Island) and for the past year has been pastor of the Cranston Street United Methodist Church. She is bisexual and in a relationship with a handicapped young man who attends our church. Her affiliation with M.C.C. came about through her work with the handicapped under Michael Nordstrom. She has attended MCC Providence regularly for six months and has been our church pianist for about two months. Jody has many values, but needs to work through some personal problems. She is in counseling. For the summer she is working at a Methodist Camp (Aldersgate) and will be with us only sporadically. However, in the fall she wants to devote much more time to an MCC Exhortership, and I have agreed, if you are agreeable.

The second person is Phillip Eberle, who is currently living in New York City, whom I have known for about 4 years now, think a lot of, and have worked with in the New York church office in the past. Phil has been a deacon in the N.Y. church for some time now (2 years as I understand it) and will be moving to the Providence area -- or Boston, but wants to work with me. I can use him, since I need a male in a leadership position in the church and we have had difficulty with the deacon who was acting in that position in the past. (Inability to keep confidentiality, and getting into relationships with counselees where histwo greatest faults, and we had to move him out of the diaconate.) Philip has no such problems. He has been up to visit in this area and will return in July for another visit. I would like to bring him up to meet you. He is in his late 20's and has some college and has been attending Calvary Baptist's unofficial seminary in N.Y. He is from Baptist roots and something of a charistatic. Gil thinks well of him. He has not always gotten along well with Gil, which may be in his favor. However, I have spoken to Gil about him (Gil called me Sunday) and speaks well of him.

June 19, 1978

Rev. Edward Houghton
District Coordinator, W.E. District
Metropolitan Community Church of Boston
131 Cambridge Street
Boston, Mass. 02111

Dear Ed:

I have had two formal requests for people to do exhortations under my supervision. Rev. Jody Stiles, whom you met, has requested that I approach you and your Board about the possibility of her becoming an Exhorter from the Boston church, but assigned to work here in Providence.

Jody is an M.Div. graduate of Boston University School of Theology, had two internships (one in the Boston area, the other in rural Rhode Island) and for the past year has been pastor of the Cranston Street United Methodist Church. She is bisexual and in a relationship with a handicapped young man who attends our church. Her affiliation with M.C.C. seems about the same as with the handicapped couple under Michael Ward's care. She has attended MCC Providence regularly for six months and has been our church pianist for about two months. Jody has many values, but needs to work through some personal problems. She is in counseling. For the summer she is working at a Methodist Camp (Albany) and will be with us only sporadically. However, in the fall she wants to devote much more time to an MCC Exhortership, and I have agreed, if you are agreeable.

The second person is Phillip Eberle, who is currently living in New York City, whom I have known for about 4 years now, think a lot of, and have worked with in the New York church office in the past. Phil has been a deacon in the N.Y. church for some time now (2 years as I understand it) and will be moving to the Providence area -- or Boston, but wants to work with me. I can use him, since I need a male in a leadership position in the church and we have had difficulty with the deacon who was acting in that position in the past. (Inability to keep confidentiality, and getting into relationships with counselors where there were greatest faults, and we had to move him out of the discourse.) Phillip has no such problems. He has been up to visit in this area and will return in July for another visit. I would like to bring him up to meet you. He is in his late 30's and has some college and has been attending Gateway Baptist's ministerial seminary in N.Y. He is from Baptist roots and something of a character. Gil thinks well of him. He has not given a position along with Gil, which may be in his favor. However, I have spoken to Gil about him (Gil called me Sunday) and speaks well of him.

The reason for asking that they be exhorters from Boston is that the budget you set at Board of Home Missions absolutely cannot be met during the summer. Providence has always had difficulty maintaining its money during the summer and this does not seem to be an exception. As a matter of fact, I was told here that the only reason the church was seeking chartering was for my personal prestige and they could not be bothered raising that kind of money to meet my personal need for chartering. If they don't want it, I don't plan to push it.

That leaves me with the problem of two exhorters. I really think Jody has potential, once she gets some of the garbage out of her life -- and she is working on that. She is also badly disillusioned (as a woman) with her treatment by the Methodist Church, which is what she was working out when she went to E. Minister's Conference with us. She is interested in possibly beginning work in Portland, Maine where there is potential for an M.C.C., and would like to begin work in founding a church there.

Phil may also have potential -- I would have to work with him again. He would make an excellent assistant pastor in a large church, since he has administrative and counseling skills. I don't know about his skill as a preacher or teacher. He has had some experience, since N.Y. has a deacon's service once a month. I would be willing to try him and work with him. R.I. also has cheap education available or he could commute to Boston for classes in the program Jean is in (\$20 a credit!!). That in itself interests him.

As you know I am interested in teaching and working with exhorters. This would give me the nucleus of a class and some of my members might want to sit in. Phil has taken my Bible class in N.Y. and was faithful and interested and contributed well. I would be glad to include any of your exhorters or deacons if they could get down here for classes, also Gloria Audet if she could get over here.

I am enclosing my exhorter training proposal, to give you an idea of what I have in mind.

Would you ask your Board what they think and let me know. Also, of course, let me know how you feel about this idea.

In Christ --

Rev. Marge Ragona

mfr

The reason for asking that they be exhorters from Boston is that the budget you set at Board of Home Missions absolutely cannot be met during this summer. Providence has always had difficulty maintaining its money during the summer and this does not seem to be an exception. As a matter of fact, I was told here that the only reason the church was seeking exhorting was for my personal prestige and they could not be bothered raising that kind of money to meet my personal need for exhorting. If they don't want it, I don't plan to push it.

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I am enclosing my exhorter training proposal, to give you an idea of what I have in mind.

Would you ask your Board what they think and let me know. Also, of course, let me know how you feel about this idea.

In Christ --

Rev. Wayne Ragona

WLR

May 25, 1978

Rev. Edward Hougen, District Coordinator
Metropolitan Community Churches - N.E. District
131 Cambridge Street
Boston, Mass. 02114

Dear Ed:

Enclosed are the materials you wanted. The application for ordination that I have requires the signature of an additional ordained minister. What do you suggest? I wish I had noted that while Jose Mojica was in Boston. Our district does not have another ordained minister, and your signature is wanted as D.C.

At any rate, it is enclosed, along with the outline for the paper and the bibliography for same.

I trust this is what is needed. If I am wrong call me and I will do what I can to right things.

Love,

Marge

mfr=

Metropolitan Community Church
P.O. Box 1462, Annex Station
Providence, R.I. 02901

11/10/77

Ed:

Just a note to thank you for your participation Sunday, and
to let you in on the good news: Our offering was \$281.00
an all time high for Providence!

We are id off the old phone bill -- and found that before they
would put another phone in in the church's name, we would have
to put up a deposit of \$300.00. We will just have to keep on
praying that a way will open. I cannot imagine how Joe and
others could have run up bills that consistently went that high,
but apparently they did.

Have enclosed my October Minister's Report.

Love to Margaret and the kiddies.

In Christ,

Margo

August 18, 1978

Rev. Edward Hougen
Metropolitan Community Church of Boston
131 Cambridge Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Ed:

Enclosed are the preliminary materials for District Conference. You will note that there are virtually no hotel accommodations in Providence for that weekend. There is a major jewelry show here, and with the limited number of hotels in town, they are booked solid.

You will also note "Womanspace"! It is our way of beating the problem of housing. We just do not have enough apartments to go around. We have about 50 people who could provide housing. Divide that by 2 and you have the number of separate accommodations we have available. "Womanspace" will make it easier. There are bathrooms and showers available at the church, and they have used the space for youth conferences, etc.

You haven't seen our kitchen, but we have nearly the same set-up you have at Boston, maybe even a little more efficiently planned. We are well able to feed 200 easily, and look forward to at least 150. I need your help in planning the program, and want to have lunch with you at some point very soon.

Be in prayer -- we've had the burning that you know about, and this week had another suicide of a church-related person, Phil Poitier, who was our florist. Our people are heartbroken, both men were well-loved. This is like the old pre-Liberation days, when suicide was a daily occurrence in our community, and those of us who were programmed for it, believed it was the only way out. Who says Anita hasn't done her work well?

We had a good visit with Troy. He thought he could raise \$300 here -- got \$125. Told us about the millions he drew elsewhere. However, we are not in debt, as you were, and this now gives us about \$600.00 in the bank. Not bad for Providence! Pastor's salary goes up again in September -- this time to \$30.00 week. Makes my monthly about \$400.00. See the enclosed financial report. (The other \$50.00 will be saved for General Conference next summer.)

We're looking forward to showing off! We think we're hot stuff

after our formal sit-down dinner for 71 night Troy was here.

Our fall program starts in September, with rap group on Tuesday and Bible Study on Thursday. No potlucks on Wednesday -- just once a month on last Tuesday. Thank heaven, even I was bored with those.

Call me and let me know when we can have lunch. I've quit at Boston -- both painful to be there, and ridiculous. I'm needed here right now.

In Christ,

Marge

August 13, 1978

Rev. Edward Hougen, District Coordinator
N. E. District, Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches
131 Cambridge Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

Dear Ed:

Enclosed are the supporting papers for our request for chartering, as you had requested.

As you can see from the Financial Report, we have kept our income fairly high over the summer. July dropped off because we did not do any outside fund raising, as we had in May and June (our 50/50 raffle). However, Troy's visit may bring us extra money this month, and we have a Flea Market planned for the end of the month. We also have a film "Gay U.S.A." planned for next month. Our offerings are about what they have been in the past -- maybe somewhat higher.

Please note that once again if it were not for back bills we would have had more money -- but we paid Steve's phone and utility bills to him. I am currently being paid \$25.00 and housing, utilities, etc.

We are solvent -- more so than many of the chartered churches. We are in a secure setting with Mathewson Street Church, better than ever since I work closely with Dr. Ziegler and Dr. Gillespie of the Council of Churches. My chaplaincy at RISD is also an asset, since that puts me on the chaplaincy committee of the R.I. Council of Churches. Our rapport with the religious establishment here is excellent.

Our Prison Ministry is growing, stabilizing under Connie Di Genzo's leadership -- we now have 4 people working with her. As you know, Phil Eberle is coming the first of September, so we will have a man on staff, especially for counseling. He is young but capable. He also preaches fairly well.

We have 41 members coming up -- Ginny is joining the church the next time around, and there may be others. We have a rap series planning for the fall -- 12 weeks "The Gay Life - Rules, Roles and Relationships." also we are beginning our Bible Study -- the overview of the New Testament. We're going to follow that with a doctrines study -- "What do Christians Believe?" which will go for about 14 weeks. Our exhorter seminar has covered 1. Prayer - public and private. 2. Preaching.

August 13, 1978

Rev. Edward Hunter, District Coordinator
U. M. District, Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches
131 Cambridge Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

Dear Ed:

Enclosed are the supporting papers for our request for chartering, as you had requested.

As you can see from the Financial Report, we have kept our income fairly high over the summer. July dropped off because we did not do any outside fund raising, as we had in May and June (our 50/50 rally). However, Troy's visit may bring us extra money this month, and we have a film "Gay U.S.A." planned for next month. Our offerings are about what they have been in the past -- maybe somewhat higher.

Please note that once again if it were not for back bills we would have had more money -- but we paid Steve's phone and utility bills to him. I am currently being paid \$25.00 and housing, utilities, etc.

We are solvent -- more so than many of the chartered churches. We are in a secure setting with Matthew Street Church, better than ever since I work closely with Dr. Siegel and Dr. Gillespie of the Council of Churches. My chaplaincy at HSP is also an asset, since that puts me on the chaplaincy committee of the R.I. Council of Churches. Our rapport with the religious establishment here is excellent.

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of destructive relationships and have begun new and (from all appearances) more constructive ones. These people are key members of our church, like Connie, myself, and one board member. Months of counseling seems to be paying off. These people have made relationships with people from outside the church and brought their new partners in, along with a whole group of healthier people.

Our new members tend to be younger, better educated, from a more stable background, and more middle class. If that's a sign of programs, so be it. Most of them are women, however, we have added 3 very stable males. Two of them are in a long-term relationship, and in business for themselves. The other is the manager of a small computer business. Very stable types for Providence. We also have three rather elderly males (gay) attending regularly -- two of them Boston people who live down at this end of the state. We have picked up 5 college grads, 2 with masters.

We are reaching more people from S.E. Massachusetts -- the Attleboro-Taunton, Milton areas. Eventually, I think we will begin to get some members from there. I have been doing a number of holy unions for people from that area, also some heavy counseling.

We are moving more with the activists -- some of them ~~are~~ attending activities, if not services. Also, we are reaching out to the TV and transgender people.

In all, the way things are going we seem to be reaching more people and a whole better educated group of people. Our difficulty is still that our people are underpaid. For example: Of our 5 new college graduates, 1 is employed as an assistant professor at RIC, 1 is underemployed on a CETA program (time limited to about another 8 months), 1 is employed part-time in another field, 1 is employed as a temp. unable to find work in her field, 1 is self-employed.

A statistical breakdown of our people follows:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 17 Employed fulltime | 4 Welfare - Lesbian mothers |
| 2 Apprenticeship Programs | 5 Handicapped - SSI recipients |
| 4 CETA/OIC Programs | 3 Elderly or widow OASI recipients (has 4 children) |
| 3 Service men/women | 4 Students |
| 1 Full-time religious (Salvation Army) | |

You will notice, then, that 1/2 or less of our congregation is employed regularly. Two young people are in apprenticeship programs, 4 are underemployed in CETA programs, and 2 are in the service. All the rest are (numbering 17) either elderly, handicapped, welfare mothers, or students. This limits the amount of money they have available for support of the church. One OASI recipient contributes \$20.00 a month to the church. One welfare mother tithes (God knows how -- she has 6 children). We have a total of 29 children associated with our church. One serviceman sends a tithe of \$40.00 a month to the church. One servicewoman is also a student. In short, a church with 26 employed members raised \$19000 in 3 months. This is an average giving of \$16.00 a month per person. I am not ashamed of that, considering what most of our people earn. (Secretaries in Providence earn less than \$150.00, many of our men work in factories at basic wage or less than \$3.00 an hour. One friend of the church is a paraplegic student, one is a one-legged woman student; their financial contribution is limited.

of destructive relationships and have begun new and (from all appearances) more constructive ones. These people are key members of our church, like Gennie, myself, and one board member. Months of counseling seems to be paying off. These people have made relationships with people from outside the church and brought their new partners in, along with a whole group of healthier people.

Our new members tend to be younger, better educated, from a more stable background, and more middle class. If that's a sign of progress, so be it. Most of them are women, however, we have added 3 very stable males. Two of them are in a long-term relationship, and in business for themselves. The other is the manager of a small computer business. Very stable types for Providence. We also have three rather elderly males (gay) attending regularly -- two of them Boston people who live down at this end of the state. We have picked up 2 college grads, 2 with masters

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We are moving more with the activists -- some of them are attending activities, if not services. Also, we are reaching out to the TV and gender people.

In all, the way things are going we seem to be reaching more people and a whole better educated group of people. Our difficulty is still that our people are unbalanced. For example: Of our 2 new college graduates, 1 is employed as an assistant professor at RIC, 1 is unemployed on a GETA program (time limited to about another 8 months), 1 is employed part-time in another field, 1 is employed as a temp. unable to find work in her field, 1 is self-employed.

A statistical breakdown of our people follows:

17 Employed fulltime	4 Welfare - lesbian mothers
2 Apprenticeship Programs	2 Handicapped - SST recipients
4 GETA/OIG Programs	3 Widely or widow GAST recipients
3 Service men/women	4 Students
1 Full-time religious (Evangelist Army)	

You will notice, then, that 1/2 or less of our congregation is employed regularly. Two young people are in apprenticeship programs, 4 are unemployed in GETA programs, and 2 are in the service. All the rest are (numbering 17) either elderly, handicapped, welfare mothers, or students. This limits the amount of money they have available for support of the church. One GAST recipient contributes \$20.00 a month to the church. One welfare mother (God knows how -- she has 6 children). We have a total of 29 children associated with our church. One servicewoman sends a check of \$40.00 a month to the church. One servicewoman is also a student. In short, a church with 26 employed members raised \$19,000 in 3 months. This is an average giving of \$16.00 a month per person. I am not ashamed of that, considering what most of our people earn. (Secretaries in Providence earn less than \$150.00, many of our men work in factories at basic wage or less than \$3.00 an hour. One friend of the church is a paraplegic student, one is a one-legged woman student; their financial contribution is limited.

Of the list of members, 11 couples are involved. ~~Two~~ ^{Two} of the relationships have only one of the couple as a church member, but the spouse is regularly involved with the church in some fashion.

So, to date, that is the state of the two things which are covered in the By-laws -- Membership and finances. Unless the Lord moves me to take a pastorate elsewhere, I expect to be here until Conference in 1979. Then, of course, I hope to look for something south or west. I am homesick for the warmer climates -- I've been back north for five years, and my old bones long for the long, hot summers. Ginny's parents live here in Pawtucket, and it is a little awkward to have an activist in the family this close to home. Phil will be able to assist me, and there is a distinct possibility that in a year or so, this church may be stable enough that someone might want to answer a call here. Two years in Providence is enough for anyone, however!

We ask your prayers for John Gaffney, our activist friend, who is still severely ill (possibly paralyzed) following heart-lung surgery after his automobile accident of several months ago. We also ask you prayers for the mother of Scotty Shand; Scotty was the man found chained to the fence in Dexter Park burning to death. Scotty was a charter member of the old MCC-Providence.

God bless. We'll see you for lunch one day soon -- give you a call.

In Christ,

Marge Ragona

mfr

WTF

Marge Reagona

In Christ,

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We ask your prayers for John Gelfrey, our activist friend, who is still severely ill (possibly paralyzed) following heart-lung surgery after his automobile accident of several months ago. We also ask you prayers for the mother of Scotty Spang; Scotty was the man found chained to the fence in Dexter Park burning to death. Scotty was a charter member of the old MCC-Providence.

Providence is enough for anyone, however! enough that someone might want to answer a call here. Two years in family this close to home. Phil will be able to assist me, and there is a distinct possibility that in a year or so, this church may be stable and my old bones long for the long, hot summers. Gladys's parents live here in Pawtucket, and it is a little awkward to have an activist in the Then, of course, I hope to look for something south or west. I am take a pastorate elsewhere. I expect to be here until Conference in 1977. So, to date, that is the state of the two things which are covered in the By-laws -- Membership and Finances. Unless the Lord moves me to

Of the list of members, couples are invited. Regarding the relationships have only one of the couple as a church member, but the spouse is regularly involved with the church in some fashion.

August 24, 1978

Rev. Edward Hougen
Metropolitan Community Church of Boston
131 Cambridge Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Ed:

Enclosed is our check for \$50.00 -- which we trust will help to pay for Troy's transportation. Sorry it could not be more -- but we really could use the other money he helped us raise for our own needs. As a matter of fact, that puts us over the amount we need to get a telephone in the church's name -- which we have been trying to do since I got here. Because of priormisbehavior, as I told you, they want \$300.00. We finally have it together and are getting that phone next week. I hope the number will be the one listed above and I will have another (private) number.

See you some time next week.

In Christ,

Marge

mfr

August 24, 1978

Rev. Edward Horgan
Metropolitan Community Church of Boston
131 Cambridge Street
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See you some time next week.

In Christ,

Marge

mr

DISTRICT CO-COORDINATOR

REPORT

Northeast District
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

May 23, 1982
Boston, MA

Rev. George S. McDermott

The past three months have been exciting and inspirational as I began my responsibilities in this district as your Co-Coordinator with Steve Pieters. It has provided me with opportunities of visiting both clergy and layity alike in several of the congregations and to gain even a small sense of what is happening within the community. As the months progress it is my hope that I can visit each of the congregations in the district for no other purpose than to share in their joys and victories in their communities and to be ready to minister where ever and whenever possible. Primarily, it has been a real hope and desire of mine to be able to serve in a pastoral capacity to both clergy and layity alike throughout the district knowing that many feel the loneliness of isolation and separation.

Since MCC Providence and Boston and Portland had been asked to do a worship service at the 2nd New England Gay/Lesbian Conference in conjunction with the 9th Maine Gay/Lesbian Symposium, it became an excellent opportunity to represent the Northeast District of UFMCC in an outreach to other groups both in Maine and the other parts of New England. The conference took place on the weekend of March 26-28, 1982, in Orono, Maine on the campus of the University of Maine. Overall the conference proved quite valueable and gave me the chance of letting others in New England know about MCC and some of the congregations presently worshipping together. The unfortunate experience came when the time and place for worship were not as available as planned. Although, disappointing it became apparent that in the coming years we shall have to make an ever increasing effort to be visibly present at these conferences and to make sure that a worship experience is provided for those who so desire.

The Yale University Gay and Lesbian community had their Gay/Lesbian Awareness Days the week following Easter culminating in a rally in front of the Yale library and a dance that evening. Originally, plans had been made for a workshop around the whole issue of the handicapped person within the Gay and Lesbian community. However, when it came down to the final plans the workshop had been overlooked. However, all was not lost; for along with Chet Jones I had the privilege of sharing in the rally that Saturday afternoon, April 17 along with nearly 15 other speakers, all of whom were exciting and actually interesting to listen to for nearly 2½ hours. Most exciting of all was the number of persons who gathered there on the green before the rally to participate and make their support known both with in the Yale community but throughout the city of New Haven. This again was carried out that night with the dance that brought out nearly 250 persons.



It only goes to say that if we are willing to work together great things can happen for our community. On Sunday I preached and celebrated Holy Communion for the congregation in New Haven and enjoyed the privilege of fellowshiping with the congregation. It also gave me the chance of getting to know Chet and to share in his warm and gracious hospitality. Since I was already in the whole area of New Haven and Hartford, I took the opportunity of going on up to Hartford for their evening worship service. Unfortunately, we missed the preaching, but shared with them in their service of Communion. Going out to the restaurant by members of the Lesbian community was a wonderful delight since it also took care of some of the necessities of food that about that time were feeling needed. I have been around other congregations who have shared in this kind of fellowship following the service at a nearby restaurant, and have always found that it is a good way to bring the day to a close sharing about the table with each other within the congregation.

May has been one busy month with the arrival of our laisson Elder, the Rev. Elder Troy Perry to the district and visiting most of the churches. The only regret for me is that Brother Troy could not have remained in the district longer and thus covering our congregations in Rochester and Buffalo. It is my sincere hope that arrangements can be made for Brother Troy to return and both of these congregations have the privilege of having him for a few days. I believe that it can also help a congregation find a closer relationship to the Fellowship when an Elder visits. I will say that during Brother Troy's visit to Providence I got to know him better, and hopefully he got to learn that I actually sometimes jump off steps, not fall off them. At least this time I had the upper hand when I had to lead him through Providence rather than he always directing me. We made sure he got plenty of press coverage from a local talk show on one of the radio stations (WEAN) to an interview on WJAR-TV, Channel 10, on the noon news program. On the Saturday following his visit, May 8, a very fine article appeared in the Providence "Journal" on the religion page with an accompanying picture. Interestingly enough, the picture appeared directly below that of the Catholic Bishop for this state. After a trip to Boston with a meeting for a supper and talk with the members of MCC, Boston we returned Brother Troy to New York for his flight on May 6. While in New York we had the chance of attending a Bible study at one of the homes of a former member of MCC, New York. We had the chance of talking about the church and the integration of those 10 that night into programs which met their needs. It was a fine experience and it is my wish that Brother Troy might return within the next year to visit and to be able to really touch base with the district and some of its needs and concerns.

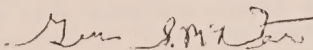
On Sunday, May 16, I visited with Harlem, MCC and experienced a joy of the Spirit in worshipping with them that afternoon. I want to say that knowing what our Sister Renee McCoy is doing there means only great things with the working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those people and how they will effect all of Harlem. Praise God for them. That evening was spent worshipping with MCC, New York and listening to Steve Carson preach. One of the thoughts that came down to me that day, amidst my intense traveling,

that those of us who have the privilege of traveling about the district certainly have the privilege of hearing many others who have tremendous talents in preaching and bringing the message of Christ to those that seek the church out. We, indeed, are all ministers of the Gospel.

Clergy conference in April proved to be exciting, but above all a process of growth for many of us who were there. James Nelson brought a wealth of experience and knowledge in the whole area of sexuality, but contributed even more as he brought the group to working through some of their own griefs and anger. For some it was difficult, but for most it was a sense of the Holy Spirit working through and with each person to where many began to get in touch with themselves and with others. We began to feel and then to grow.

This is an exciting district, but most of all a wonderful and Spirit filled district. Much has gone on here, but there is much that shall happen when it may serve to awaken others to the reality that Northeast District is not strange, but just the working of the Christ through the workings of the Holy Spirit. We are not afraid any more and in that reality we grow. However, growth can take place when we care. As we move about the district and as we take the calls our first and foremost concern is to be present, to be a pastor to you, and for you to know that because of the Christ within us we care and we love you. If others can sense this love and care of the entire district then others will want to join us--others who are looking for the workings of the Holy Spirit and to know that they have joined a body of people given to working for the care and concern of each other. We are here to be with you, to share and to offer you healing. The truth of the growth is the fact that already there are persons in other communities wanting an MCC and we want to be there. However, that can only happen when we reach out to one another, support one another, and be willing to give as we have been given. God bless each of you and may you know that we are here together and I, as your Co-Coordinator, will be willing to listen and to come if necessary to be with you.

Submitted,



Rev. George S. McDermott,
Northeast District Co-Coordinator



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF GREATER PROVIDENCE

POB 1462

PROVIDENCE, R.I. 02901

Rev. George S. McDermott, Pastor
5 Junction Street, Providence
401-272-9247

Sunday Services - 7:00pm
134 Mathewson Street

April 15, 1982

Northeast District
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

RE: Greetings

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Faith:

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus, our Redeemer and Friend.

It is with regret that I have not corresponded with each of you prior to this date. However, I do wish to bring greetings to each of you and the joy of this Eastertide. Let us bring about a rebirth and regeneration of our spirits for each of us individually and cause this to be a rebirth of our District in Spirit and Faith. Since I am unable to be with each of you personally at this time, I want to share with you through this means. It is my hope that I shall be able to carry it on throughout the coming months.

It is my hope that as your new District Co-Coordinator that I shall always be available to each of you within this district, clergy and layity alike, for personal consultations, conferences, or just some good old fashion conversation either by phone or by mail, or both. I trust that you will call upon me when you have a need or just want to talk. I believe that I can serve you best in this manner, and by personal visits. If you would like me to come and preach, or just visit without preaching, I am available to do so. I will be calling you to make arrangements for those dates when I can come to your city and to share some time with you. During the next 8 months it is my expectation to try and get to all of the congregations in this district, and in those areas anticipating congregations.

Talking about congregations, let me extend on behalf of the district and the Coordinators of this district our warmest greetings and fellowship to our newest study group: MCC, Buffalo. It is good and beautiful to see how we are expanding and reaching persons in so many areas that for a long time had felt that no one cared. We do care, and hopefully we may show it by our presence and persons. As many of you have already heard,



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Sisters and Brothers in the Faith

2

the Rev. Renee McCoy, our Harlem MCC pastor lost her father recently. From each of us in the district we send our sincere sympathys at her loss. Continue to hold up Renee and her family and Karen in prayer that they continue to find that strength in faith that sustains and upholds. As you pray daily and during your services each week continue to remember those in the Albany-Troy, New York area that are finding it difficult to deal with oppression and homophobia. Remember each other in your local congregation and those throughout the district and Fellowship. We need each other; for together we are the Fellowship. We are the body of Faith, the body of believers seeking the will of God for each of our lives, and through that will to give strength to another.

As we prepare for the Rev. Elder Troy Perry to come into our district, let us pray that great things may come from this visit and that many of our communities may become more aware of our presence and through that presence ready to give guidance and strength wherever needed. During Brother Troy's visit in the district Steve Pieters will be traveling with him part of the time, and I shall be the other part of the time. This way I shall get the chance to see some of you, and make any plans necessary for the future. Until we see each other soon either somewhere in the district or at our next district conference in Boston, May 21-23, God bless each of you, and may you continue to be strong in the Faith, remembering that Christ is indeed Redeemer.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. George S. McDermott
District Vo-Coordinator

Haroldson
468-3914
R. Penney

~~338-9631~~

338-9631